BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT

1982

BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICES

THE FUNERAL SERVICES ACT OF ONTARIO
APPOINTED UNDER THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF THE
REGISTRAR

416 / 921-5184

1ST FLOOR
25 GROSVENOR STREET
TORONTO, ONTARIO
M4Y 1A9

June 30, 1983.

The Honourable Keith Norton,
MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Sir:

I have the honour to submit for your approval the fifth Annual Report of the Board of Funeral Services for the period ending December 31, 1982.

Yours sincerely,

Donald B. Steenson,
REGISTRAR.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Board Membership	2
Functions	3
Observations	5

ANNUAL REPORT - 1982

INTRODUCTION:

This is the fifth report of the board of Funeral Services to the Minister of Health as required by Section 2 (8) of the Funeral Services Act. This report covers the Board's activities in the calendar year 1982.

BOARD STAFF

Donald B. Steenson, F.B.I.E.
Registrar

L. Eileen Greer,
Secretary.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Barry B. Swadron, Q.C.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP:

The Board is established by the Funeral Services Act which was proclaimed on December 5, 1977 and is composed of five funeral directors (one of whom does not direct the operation of a Funeral Service Establishment) and three persons who are not licenced under the Funeral Services Act.

MEMBERS:

Eric F. Nicholls, Chairman	Wallaceburg,
Barry Brownlee, Vice Chairman	Finch
Edith MacIntosh, Treasurer	Kitchener
Kenneth Bagnell	Whitby
Michael Benjamin	Toronto
Everett Coates	Brampton
Agnew Johnston, D.D.	Thunder Bay
Gerry Lougheed Jr.	Sudbury

FUNCTIONS:

The Funeral Services Act establishes a self-governing board and the functions of the Board are:

a) to regulate the practices of funeral directors in accordance with this Act and the regulations;

b) to regulate funeral service establishments in accordance with this Act and the regulations;

c) to establish, maintain and develop standards of knowledge and skill among funeral directors;

d) to establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification and practice for the practice of funeral directors;

e) to establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification for funeral service establishments;

f) to establish, maintain and develop standards of professional ethics among funeral directors and funeral service establishment licensees;

g) to administer this Act and perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are imposed or conferred on the Board by or under this Act or the regulations or by any other Act,

in order that the public interest may be served and protected.

The Board shall:

a) review the operation of this Act and the regulations and make recommendations to the Minister thereon;

b) approve or set courses of study and examinations for the qualification of applicants for licence.

The Funeral Services Act establishes within the Board of Funeral Services:

1) A Licencing Committee: This committee, reviews the applications for In-Service Training, following their graduation from the funeral service education programme at Humber College, reviews applications and submissions from licencess in other jurisdictions who are desirous of becoming licenced in Ontario and sets examinations for candidates for licensure.

2) A Complaints Committee: This committee considers and investigates complaints regarding the conduct or actions of any funeral director which have been submitted in writing to the Registrar in accordance with Section 11 of the Funeral Services Act.

...../4

During 1982 this committe received, considered and investigated twenty three complaints. Of these fifteen were resolved to the satisfaction of both the complainant and the funeral director, two were forwarded to the Funeral Services Review Board at the request of the complainant and six were referred to the Discipline Committee for the appropriate action.

3) A Discipline Committee: This committee hears and determines allegations of professional misconduct or incompetence against any funeral director, referred to it by the Complaints Committee. Six hearings were held by this committee with the following results:

WM. WAKEFIELD, a funeral director of Kincardine, Ontario was charged with professional misconduct in that he had misused all of his trust monies and had been convicted of theft in a Provincial Court. The charges were proven to the satisfaction of the Discipline Committee and Mr. Wakefield had his funeral directors licence revoked.

GEORGE CURTIS, a funeral director of Stevensville, Ontario was charged with professional misconduct in that he had misused a portion of his trust monies. The charges were proven to the satisfaction of the Discipline Committee and Mr. Curtis had his funeral directors licence revoked.

KENNETH McDONALD, a funeral director in Sarnia, Ontario was charged with professional misconduct in that he was convicted in Provincial Court of an offence that affects the fitness of a funeral director to engage in the practice of funeral directing. The charges of impersonating a law officerwere proven to the satisfaction of the Discipline Committee and Mr. McDonald had his funeral directors licence revoked.

A funeral director was charged with professional misconduct for conduct which would reasonably be regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional The charges were proven and the funeral director was reprimanded. The Committee ordered that the name and address of the funeral director not be published.

A funeral director was charged with professional misconduct for conduct which would reasonably be regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional The Charges were proven to the satisfaction of the Discipline Committee and the funeral director was reprimanded. The committee ordered that the name and address of the funeral director not be published.

A funeral director was charged with professional misconduct in permitting, counselling or assisting a person who was not licenced under the Act to engage in the practise of funeral directing. The charges were not proven to the satisfaction of the Discipline Committee and the funeral director was found not guilty

...../5

In accordance with Section 6 (7) of the Funeral Services Act, the Registrar cancelled the licences of five funeral directors for non-payment of fees.

An inspection of funeral service establishments is carried out on a regular basis. These unannounced inspections cover the premises, equipment and facilities as well as the books, records and trust accounts pertaining to prepaid funerals.

OBSERVATIONS:

The whole Board met for a total of twelve days during 1982 and in April conducted a two day Continuing Education seminar as required by Section 5 of the Regulations. This seminar was attended by approximately 250 licencees. The course covered such topics as "Death, Dying and Changing Society", "Explaining Death to Children and Ourselves", "Public Health Practise", "Your and Your Communications", and "Business decisions in today's economy".

The Licencing Committee set examinations for 73 candidates. Of these 67 were successful and there were six failures.

During 1982, the Legislative Committee of the Board of Funeral Services met on two occasions with officials of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to draft and review amendments to the Prearranged Funeral Services Act. These amendments will reflect the need for better controls and accountability by funeral directors to the Board of Funeral Services in the matter of prepaid funeral contracts and trust monies.

This report, as those of previous years, indicates that the Board of Funeral Services and the various committees, has had a very active year. The members feel that the objects of the Board are being fulfilled and that the public interest is both being served and protected.